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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 19 | Humidity 38% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 75,996 | Nifty 22,959 | Gold 84,990 | Silver 95,530 | Dollar 86.85 | Euro 90.95 | GBP 109.41

In January, city records 3,511 cases of drunk driving, in just one week of Feb, the count was 800; seems none of the campaigns, awareness sessions conducted by traffic police are reaching tipplers' ears

ONE TOO MANY FOR THE ROAD

Riding under the influence claims its latest victim — a pedestrian

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The death of a pedestrian after being hit by a speeding bike, has caused concern about the safety of pedestrians. With police still to confirm whether the rider was under the influence of alcohol or narcotics, traffic officials have noted the dangers of drunk driving, cases of which show no sign of abating.

Muni Ramayya was walking along Jigani Road on Tuesday night when a student of Alliance College rammed his bike into him. Witnesses reported that the rider, Iman, was heavily intoxicated at the time of the accident. Due to the impact, Muni Ramayya sustained severe injuries and succumbed to excessive bleeding on the spot.

Jigani police arrived at the scene and registered a case against the accused. They are investigating whether Iman was under the influence of alcohol or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> "Many individuals consume excessive alcohol, leading to adverse effects on their blood and impairing their vision and coordination while driving
> —MN Sreehari, traffic expert

TUNNEL TREK

BM goes on test drive to see progress of work on Pink Line project, finds all is well on track, electrification yet to be done

PAGE 5

KNOW IT ALL

Find out what happened in the world or closer home, and even in the world of sport as we cut a long story short

PAGE 7

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THINGS TO DO

01 Laugh out loud

Get ready for an evening of non-stop laughter as Vipul Goyal, known for his sharp wit and relatable humour, takes the stage. With his signature comic style, he's sure to leave the audience in splits!
Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall
When: February 22, 5.00 pm

02 Pottery workshop

Engage yourself in a unique two-hour pottery workshop offering an immersive experience in ceramics. The session is split into one hour of hand-building and one hour on the potter's wheel, allowing participants to explore both techniques and craft their own creations.
Where: Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan
When: February 21-28

03 Cultural Spectacle

Witness a stunning dance musical by Prabhat Arts International, brings the Mahabharata to life with classical dance, music, and breathtaking visuals. This 90-minute production blends Sanskrit verses with Kannada and English narration for an immersive experience.
Where: Ravindra Kalakshetra
When: February 22 & 23, 6.30 pm

04 Visual storytelling

Explore Memory Vessels, by Dutch artist Bouke de Vries at the Subhedar Sculpture Courtyard. The sculptures, crafted from broken terracotta fragments encased in glass vases, delve into themes of fracture, memory, and repair.
Where: Museum of Art & Photography (MAP)
When: February 20

05 Intellectual evening

Engage yourself in the remarkable book discussion. This event highlights the extraordinary life and contributions of Irawati Karve, offering deep insights into her legacy.
Where: Champaca bookstore
When: February 22, 5.30 pm

Arkavathy contains toxic heavy metals: CWC report

High levels of harmful substances like lead, chromium, and iron are found in water samples across Karntaka; experts warn of severe health risks

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Chromium and iron exceed acceptable limits in other rivers such as Ghataprabha, Cauvery

High levels of heavy metals and toxic substances have been detected in water samples from multiple rivers in Karnataka, including Arkavathy, according to a report by the Central Water Commission (CWC).

The water quality of rivers was measured at 38 locations in Karnataka, and samples from 19 locations had high concentrations of one or more trace and toxic heavy metals. Heavy metals that were found beyond the safe limit included lead, chromium, and iron.

Lead content in the Arkavathy River stretch near DB Kuppe was found to be three times higher than the acceptable limit. The Bureau of Indian Standards has recommended that the acceptable limit for lead is 10µg/L in drinking water. However, the value was found to be as high as 34.689µg/L near DB Kuppe. The concentration of lead was high at both monitoring stations (DB Kuppe and Koggedoddi) of Arkavathy and on all six occasions that the samples were tested.

Notably, the Thippagondanahalli (TG Halli) reservoir that supplies water to Bengaluru draws it from Arkavathi near DB Kuppe.

The stretch receives industrial waste from the Peenya Industrial area, leading to contamination. In January this year, another CWC report highlighted that the river stretch near DB Kuppe had low dissolved oxygen levels and high levels of total coliform contamination (661200MPN/100ml) due to a high load of organic matter.

> **"High levels of lead can impact the kidneys, and lead poisoning can also impact muscles and joints. Lead poisoning also leads to lung damage and harm to the immune system"** –Expert

Experts say lead is a systemic poison as it distributes throughout the body, affecting various organs and tissues once it enters the bloodstream. It is also known to interfere with the formation of blood or blood cells, potentially leading to anaemia.

"High levels of lead can impact the kidneys, and lead poisoning can also impact muscles and joints. Lead poisoning also leads to lung damage and harm to the immune system," said a city-based healthcare expert.

According to the CWC report, children are more vulnerable to lead exposure than adults due to their rapid growth rate and higher metabolism. The primary health concern in children exposed to lead is intellectual and brain damage, and high-level exposure can even be fatal.

Apart from Arkavathy, a concentration of lead higher than permissible levels was also found in Bhadra, Cauvery, Hemavathy, Shimsha, and Tungabhadra rivers.

Chromium and Iron, above acceptable limits, were found in rivers such as Ghataprabha, Tungabhadra, Cauvery, Bhadra, Hemavati, Kabini, Laxmanathirtha, Tunga, and Aghnanashni.

The Bureau of Indian Standards has recommended an acceptable limit of 50 µg/L of chromium in drinking water. However, the concentration of this heavy metal was found to be as high as 82.207 in Ghataprabha in Belgaum.

Similarly, while The Bureau of Indian Standards f has recommended the acceptable limit of 1000 µg/L for Iron, its concentration in Aghnanashni River in Uttara Karnataka is as high as 3510.84 µg/L, in Bhadra in Shivamogga it is recorded to be 3833.53 µg/L and in Cauvery in Kodagu district, levels if Iron was found to be 3718.85 µg/L.

Experts say although iron is essential in normal quantities, excessive iron intake can adversely affect health and may lead to conditions when the body absorbs too much iron from food, which can lead to life-threatening conditions.

DCVC can verify railway employees' caste

The Karnataka High Court has determined that the District Caste Verification Committee (DCVC) is the authorised body to verify caste certificates of Central Government employees when such certificates are issued by the Tahasildar–State Government.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj dismissed a review petition filed by Sangappa M Bagewadi, who challenged the order dated January 11, 2024. The petitioner had contested that the matter could not be referred to the DCVC. The court emphasised that since caste certificates are issued by State Government officers like the Tahasildar, the State Government should establish proper verification systems. The court noted that the existing Rules of 1992 need strengthening by implementing the guidelines from the Kumari Madhuri Patil case.

The petitioner, an employee of South Western Railways, argued that as a Central Government undertaking employee, he was exempt from enquiries under the Karnataka Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Rules, 1992. The respondents countered that since a State officer issued the certificate, State machinery should handle verification. They argued that caste verification requires anthropological expertise, making DCVC more suitable than a District Magistrate. The court, citing Supreme Court judgements in Dayaram vs Sudhir Batham (2012) and Kumari Madhuri Patila case (1995), confirmed DCVC's authority to verify certificates issued before the 1992 Rules.

The court rejected the argument that Central Government circulars mandating District Magistrate verification were binding. It emphasised that genuine certificate holders need not fear verification, regardless of the complainant. **–BMB**

Transgender quota stays, says HC

The Karnataka High Court declined to halt a single judge's directive requiring NLSIU (National Law School of India University) to implement a 0.5% reservation with a fee waiver for transgender persons until it formulates proper reservations as per the Supreme Court's 2014 guidelines.

A division bench comprising Justice V Kameswar Rao and Justice TM Nadaf scheduled the University's appeal for March 6, requesting parties to submit their pleadings. The bench verbally instructed the petitioner, a transgender individual seeking admission to the 3-year LLB course, to avoid filing contempt proceedings against the University. Senior Advocate KG Raghavan, representing the University, noted that the admission-related plea became academic as the petitioner did not enrol despite an interim order. He emphasised that the matter now centred on the State's implementation of SC directives regarding transgenders.

The single judge had ordered: "NLSIU is directed to implement directions issued by Supreme Court in NALSA's case (NALSA v Union of India) by formulating reservation along with measures for providing financial aid to TGs in education before the commencement of the admission process for next academic year. Until then, to provide a reservation of 0.5% (half the percentage of reservation provided for TGs in employment under State) as the interim reservation with fee waiver and for which NLSIU may apply to the State/Central Government for the appropriate grant." **–BMB**

CLOUD BURST

Realtor goes to cops against data management firm after all its info gets wiped off

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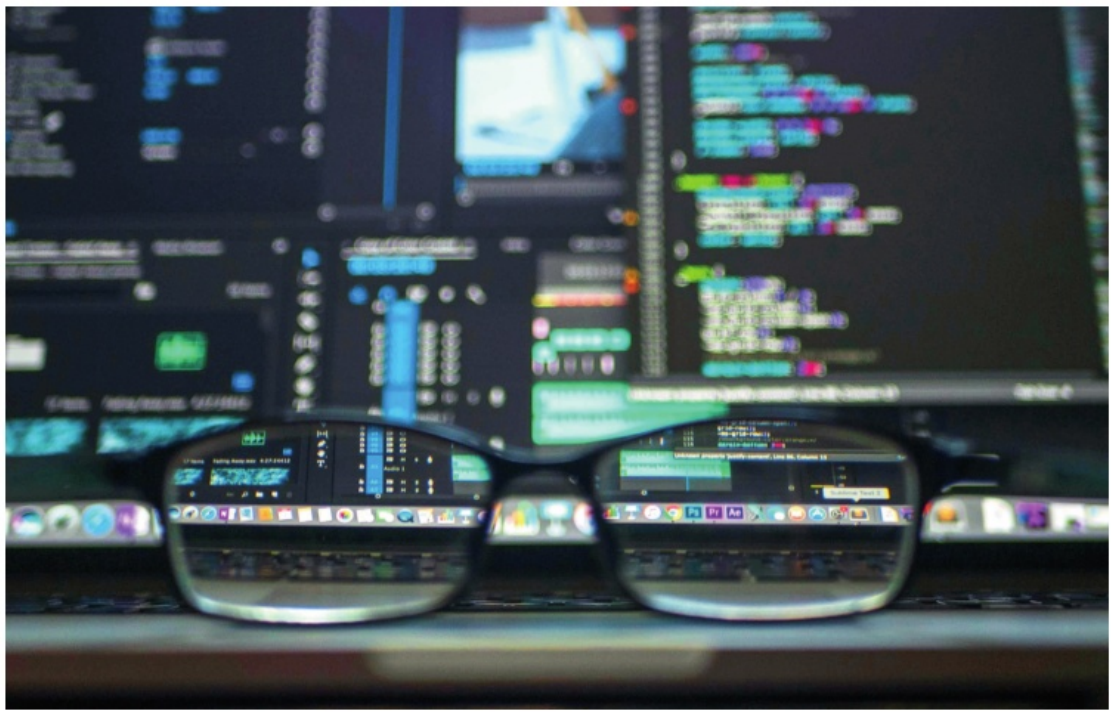

A leading Bengaluru-based real estate company (Adarsh Group) has lodged a complaint against Amazon Web Services (AWS), alleging severe mismanagement of its data, which reportedly resulted in a staggering loss of ₹150 crore. Following the complaint filed by the company's Chief Human Resource Officer, the city's cybercrime police have registered a case against AWS and others under the IT Act, as well as Section 318(4) (cheating and fraud) and Section 319(2) (impersonation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The digital disaster

The firm, a leading real estate developer operating for 36 years, has been engaged in residential, commercial, and hospitality projects across Bengaluru. It employs 1,800 staff members and over 10,000 labourers through various contractors, handling 35 residential projects with an annual turnover of ₹2,100 crore (FY 2023-24).

To streamline operations, the company relied on SAP Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software, hosted on AWS cloud storage. The issue began in May 2023, when a Business Development Representative from AWS allegedly approached the firm, urging them to transition their cloud storage to AWS. The representative reportedly assured the company that AWS would offer high-level security and data retrieval, even in cases of cyber terrorism, sabotage, or natural disasters like earthquakes and floods.

> **"The inability to restore critical business data due to alleged third-party interference indicates potential gaps in security measures, access control, and risk management**
> Mirza Faizan, cybersecurity expert

In December 2023, the company officially procured AWS cloud storage through Mumbai-based SAP implementation partner, SAVIC Technologies Pvt Ltd. A work order was issued to migrate data from the previous storage platform to AWS, with a contract ensuring secure data maintenance until November 2027. The deal was valued at ₹88.59 lakh, including GST.

The data wipe

On January 9, 2025, the company's entire data environment hosted on AWS was deleted. Upon contacting SAVIC Technologies, the company was informed that certain individuals from Redington Group and AWS teams had allegedly accessed the storage system at the root level and erased the entire account.

The data loss resulted in six years of business records vanishing overnight, leaving the company unable to collect payments from customers, pay statutory taxes, or meet financial obligations. The estimated ₹5 crore daily loss snowballed into a ₹150 crore financial hit by January 31, 2025.

Despite repeated attempts, AWS failed to retrieve or restore the lost data, forcing the company to file a police complaint. Investigators are now verifying whether the data wipe was a case of internal mismanagement, security breach, or deliberate tampering.

The cybercrime police have initiated an investigation to determine the cause of the data loss, assess the estimated financial damage, and ascertain whether the incident was due to internal mismanagement or deliberate tampering.

Experts say

Experts told BM that this case could set a precedent in corporate cloud security liability and raise concerns over data protection in India's growing cloud computing sector.

"Cloud service providers have a fiduciary responsibility to protect client data, particularly when they have contractually guaranteed data integrity and recovery. The inability to restore critical business data due to alleged third-party interference indicates potential gaps in security measures, access control, and risk management," cybersecurity expert Mirza Faizan Asad told BM.

As businesses increasingly rely on cloud storage for vital operations, he said, "This case underscores the urgent need for stronger legal protections in Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and more reliable data recovery mechanisms."

He advocates for robust liability clauses to prevent such devastating losses, urging companies to implement multi-layered data protection strategies, including hybrid cloud backups and independent disaster recovery plans. Furthermore, regulatory bodies must enforce stricter data governance standards and impose penalties for negligence, ensuring that cloud providers meet their security commitments, he said.

Woman kills child, hangs self over row with husband

A 34-year-old woman allegedly took her own life after killing her 4-year-old daughter, over distress caused by her husband's illicit relationship at their residence in Ramayya Layout on Sunday evening.

Shruthi, a former panchayat president from a village near Pavagada, had been married to Gopalakrishna, a former audit officer at the panchayat office, for 10 years. They had two children. Reports suggest that Shruthi had been struggling with the revelation of her husband's extramarital affair. On Sunday evening, while her husband was away from home, Shruthi hanged her daughter and then herself. DCP of North Division Saidulu Adavath confirmed that the deceased's brother filed a complaint, based on which a case of abetment to suicide has been registered. The complaint states that the couple frequently argued over dowry and the illicit relationship. The police have also recovered a death note, which is currently under verification. **BMB**

Temple hundi theft: Minors arrested

Chamarajapet police have arrested two minors involved in the theft of a hundi from the Venkataramana Swamy Temple, in Kaniyara Colony. The stolen items included the hundi, an autorickshaw valued at Rs 90,000, and a scooter worth Rs 2.39 lakh.

The incident came to light after Srinivas, the temple manager, reported the theft of the hundi, which was placed in front of the temple's door. The police detained the two minors, whose involvement in other thefts soon came to the forefront. The minors had a history of stealing after dropping out of college, with multiple theft cases linked to them. The operation, led by Inspector T Manjanna, resulted in the recovery of several stolen items, including one stolen auto and five scooters, linked to a series of thefts in the area. The minors were found to have committed thefts in Chamarajpet, Chandra Layout, SR Nagar, and Cotton Town.

In total, nine theft cases have been solved over the last seven months, the arrest of the minors. **BMB**

You shouldn't be charged each time you use debit card to withdraw money

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Do you withdraw money from ATMs using a debit card? If so, you will be advised to exercise caution as there is a chance that you have to lose some money, as a savings bank account holder of a nationalised bank did. He, however, managed to recover the money only after escalating it with the chief manager of the bank.

This is the story of Rakshith Shetty (name changed) who works in the police department. Shetty has a savings bank account with a nationalised bank situated on Basaveshwara Road. He used to use the debit card as his salary is linked to the bank account. Shetty happened to withdraw Rs 5,000 from an ATM (not of his bank) situated at Raja Rajeshari Nagar on February 10. He was shocked when received a message on his mobile stating that Rs 24.78 has been withdrawn from his savings bank account.

"As per the RBI guidelines, I can withdraw money from other bank ATMs five times in a month apart from using my bank's ATM. So I was shocked to get the message that Rs 24.78 had been deducted from my account. I informed my bank's Chief Manager about this and asked him to

make arrangements to refund Rs 24.78. He advised me to lodge a complaint online and I did the same," Shetty said.

He said that he sent a detailed email to the Executive Director Secretariat and the Divisional Manager of the bank on February 13 for a solution. "I wrote one more e-mail to the Basaveshwara Road branch of the bank on February 15. Later, I received a message on my mobile stating that Rs 21 (Towards Reversal of Commission). I got another message stating that Rs 3.78 (Towards Reversal of GST on commission). Though the deducted amount is not a big amount, I had to inform the bank officials and send emails and also wait for more than three days to get Rs 24.78," he said.

He said that many people, including auto rickshaw drivers, street vendors, and daily wage workers, depend on debit cards to withdraw money from the nearest ATM instead of going all the way to the bank where they have saving bank accounts. "How many of such people, if they happen to face similar problems like I faced, can afford to inform or send emails to bank officials to get back Rs 24.78 or Rs 30?" he said.

The Chief Manager of the bank in question told BM Shetty's issue had been resolved.

"It was a technical problem. We have escalated the issue with our technical team and resolved it. We have also apologised for the inconvenience caused to him," he said.

Two flats' dues lead to power cut woes for entire complex

Residents of apartment complex express concerns over BESCOM's actions due to unpaid bills by few, prompting the RWA to seek accountability and fair resolution

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Residents of SL Gardens in Seshadripuram are fed up with alleged threats and harassment by Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) employees. They have been facing issues with BESCOM staff since last year for no fault of their own. Around 20 flat owners have been paying their electricity bills regularly, yet BESCOM employees are threatening to disconnect power to the entire apartment complex. The reason: two flat owners have not cleared their electricity bill arrears.

The SL Gardens Resident Welfare Association wrote to the BESCOM Executive Engineer, C2 Malleshwaram, on February 13, highlighting the threats of disconnection due to the non-payment by two flat owners.

"We would like to clarify that SL Gardens is an apartment complex, and the association is not responsible for the electricity bills of individual flat owners. The outstanding dues belong to specific residents, and it is completely unjust for BESCOM employees to threaten the disconnection of the entire building's electricity due to non-payment by a few individuals. The responsibility for payment lies solely with the respective owners of these flats, not with the association," the letter stated.

The association further alleged that BESCOM employees have repeatedly pressured and coerced them into paying outstanding dues for certain individual electricity meters. "Under this undue pressure, we made payments solely to prevent disruption of electricity supply to the entire building. We request that BESCOM take immediate action against its employees who threatened us and ensure such incidents do not happen in the future. We also request a refund of the amount collected from us under pressure," the letter read.

BESCOM's engineer urges RWA's to ensure defaulters pay

> **We request that BESCOM take immediate action against its employees who threatened us and ensure such incidents do not happen in the future**
> –Letter

Meanwhile, Pragna L Krupa, General Secretary of the SL Gardens Resident Welfare Association, recalled an incident where BESCOM employees disconnected electricity to the entire building due to the unpaid dues of two flat owners. "It has become a habit for BESCOM employees to threaten us with power cuts. We have repeatedly asked them to disconnect electricity to those two flats, and issue notices to the owners instead of targeting the entire building," she said.

When contacted, BESCOM employee Gowrishankar denied threatening SL Gardens residents. "I only advised them to ensure that all flat owners pay their electricity bills on time. I did not threaten to disconnect power to the entire building," he said.

A BESCOM engineer clarified that the agency does not cut power to buildings that have no pending arrears. "We will not hesitate to stop electricity supply for consumers who fail to pay their bills regularly. I will advise the employee accused of issuing threats to refrain from such actions in the future," he said.

BESCOM's Executive Engineer in Malleshwaram said resident welfare associations must take responsibility for convincing defaulters to clear their dues.

How many RO water units actually work?

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Following complaints of poor quality of Reverse Osmosis water plants in the City, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has ordered a survey of all the RO plants in the City. It may be noted that Bangalore Mirror, on February 17, had reported how BBMP should follow the Pune model to check the RO plants as neighbouring Maharashtra had started an audit of the water dispenser units due to the outbreak of GBS.

After a meeting of officials on Monday, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath instructed officials to conduct a survey of all clean drinking water units under the BBMP jurisdiction and submit a report. He clarified that the survey will include details on the number of functional and non-functional water units across the city's eight zones. "The survey will provide a comprehensive report on how many clean drinking water units are operational, how many are non-functional, and the status of the ones currently suspended. We have instructed the officials to complete this report within a week," he said. Regarding the management of drinking water units, he mentioned that tenders have already been called in each zone, and contractors have been appointed to oversee the functioning of the units. A report on the status of all drinking water units has been requested.

BM on Jan 17 urges BBMP to adopt Pune's audit model

As the Cauvery Phase 5 project is already operational, Nath mentioned that from April 1, the complete responsibility for the city's drinking water supply will shift to the Water Supply Board (Jal Mandali). In this context, he added that the borewells under the corporation's ownership would be transferred to the Water Supply Board, and a letter has already been sent regarding this matter. "From now on, the Water Supply Board will fully manage the drinking water system. The funds allocated for drinking water under the central and state finance commissions will also be transferred to the Water Supply Board," Giri Nath added.

Integration of properties outside property tax purview

BBMP is also working on bringing properties that were previously outside the property tax purview (those that were not registered) into the tax fold. A new portal has been launched for property owners to register their properties online through the website (https://BBMP.karnataka.gov.in/NewKhata). So far, 10,000 property owners have registered through the portal. Additionally, during the implementation of the One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme, nearly 80,000 property owners took the opportunity to register their properties.

Nath said that campaigns are being organised in various zones to bring more properties into the property tax system. It is estimated that if 100,000 properties are integrated, the BBMP will receive around ₹100 crore in property taxes.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Neglected streets
Residency Road

Clothes and plastic buntings put up for Rajyotsava along Residency Road have come loose, wrapping around electric poles and giving a shabby appearance, reflecting poorly on the city and BBMP management.

Abandoned land
Versova Layout

A plot in Versova Layout, Kaggadasapura, has been neglected for 15-16 years, turning into a dumping ground.

Garbage cleared
Sahakaranagar

Following BM's report, BBMP cleared the garbage-ridden Railway Parallel Road in Kodigehalli, Sahakaranagar, ending three years of public littering.

Children taken on a fun walk into the world of birds

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A group of excited children gathered at Avalahalli Lake for a special bird walk organised by Early Bird and Ataavi Bird Foundation as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) 2025.

The walk at the lake was led by nature educators Amruta Padgaonkar and Tanmaye G.

The event was designed for children aged 9 to 13 and focused on observing birds in their natural habitat. The children started with a 20-minute bird walk, when they spotted a flock of egrets and a cormorant drying its wings. This led to engaging discussions on how bird feathers stay waterproof. The participants were encouraged to observe bird behaviours, colours, and movements closely.

One of the highlights of the session was sketching the lake's surroundings, helping the children understand different habitats. They also explored a new area to learn how birds adapt to different environments. To make the session more interactive, a Bird Bingo game was introduced, allowing children to identify and learn about various bird species while having fun. At the end of the walk, the participants shared their experiences in a reflection circle, discussing their favorite moments and newly learned facts about birds.

There were eight bird walks in eight different cities (Bengaluru, Dimapur, Halol, Jaipur, Mangluru, Ranchi, Trivandrum, Ujjain) on February 15 and 16.

Experts pointed out that bird walks like these help children develop a deep appreciation for nature from an early age. By engaging in birdwatching, they learn to observe their surroundings, understand biodiversity, and recognise the role of birds in the ecosystem. Events like the GBBC also contribute to global scientific research, as every bird spotted and recorded adds valuable data to track bird populations and migration patterns.

Experts say with birdwatching, kids learn to observe their surroundings, and recognise the role of birds in ecosystem

Additionally, these walks encourage conservation efforts. When children and their families become aware of local bird species, they are more likely to take steps to protect them. This includes reducing habitat destruction, avoiding littering, and spreading awareness about the importance of birds in maintaining ecological balance.

Behold: Light emerges fast at end of Metro tunnel

BM gets close look at progress of work going on for Pink Line; tunnels are ready, tracks laid, right now electrification is on

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KAUSHIK JN

Each of the underground stations has an average depth of 20 metres, BMRCL engineer says

The Pink Line Metro project, a critical infrastructure initiative linking Bannerghatta Road to Nagawara and serving as a key connector to the Airport (Blue) Line, is a significant part of the ongoing Phase-II metro expansion. However, the project has faced delays due to the extensive tunneling required. BMRCL officials now anticipate that the commercial operations may start next year, with the tunneling phase nearly finished.

BANGALORE MIRROR TEST DRIVE

As part of the 'Test Drive', this correspondent had the opportunity to walk through the tunnel (20 metres below the surface level) near MG Road underground station on Monday for a firsthand look at the progress. While tunnelling has been successfully completed and track installation is finished, the electrification process is still underway at the station. BMRCL's Chief Engineer (underground) Subrahmanya Gudge said, "We have successfully completed tunnelling work for 12 underground stations in Phase-II of the metro corridor, with station construction now at 90-95% completion. Civil work is nearly finished, and the installation of track, traction, and electrical systems is progressing steadily."

He said that each of the underground stations has an average depth of 20 metres, with MG Road station being the only one with four entries. It has been constructed using the bottom-up method. The tunnelling process has been significantly faster in this phase compared to Phase-I, which posed several challenges.

Speaking about the progress, Gudge noted that there were no major geological challenges in Phase-II unlike phase one. However, the team encountered a mix of stones and mud, which proved challenging for machine cutters, especially when tunneling beneath buildings. "When tunneling under buildings, we carefully monitor instrumentation and take remedial actions if necessary," said Gudigi. The primary challenge faced during this phase was conducting soil investigations under residential areas, ensuring safety and stability throughout the project. Despite these hurdles, the work has progressed smoothly and remains on track for completion.

Comparison Between Phase-I and Phase-II

Gudge said, "In Phase-I, BMRCL constructed a 10 km underground corridor, incorporating seven stations, seven cross passages, and an interchange UG station at Majestic. The construction involved the use of six Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs). This phase set the foundation for the metro's underground infrastructure. However, phase-II represents a significant extension, with an underground corridor spanning 13.75 km and featuring 12 stations, stretching from Dairy Circle in the south to Nagawara in the north. Unlike Phase-I, where standard construction methods were primarily used, Phase-II employed a mix of construction techniques. Most stations are built using the bottom-up method, although the Langford Town station incorporated the top-down method for part of its structure. As of now, civil work for the stations is largely complete, with system installations currently in progress."

> **"We have successfully completed tunnelling work for 12 underground stations in Phase-II of the Metro corridor** –Subrahmanya Gudge

The total tunnel length for Phase-II extends to 21 km, requiring the deployment of nine TBMs. Tunneling for this phase began on August 22, 2020, and concluded on October 30, 2024. Cross passages between the stations connect the stretch from Dairy Circle to Nagawara, marking a significant leap in both scale and complexity compared to Phase-I.

IN BRIEF

Fake currency racket busted

A routine money deposit turned into a major bust for a shop owner in Adugodi when he suspected that the notes he was asked to deposit were counterfeit. The accused Suman and Ghulam, along with their friend, entered the shop and attempted to exchange Rs 70,000. The shop owner, Suresh, noticed something odd while counting the bills: All the notes had identical serial numbers. His suspicion prompted him to call the police.

The trio revealed that they found the bag of cash on the Guwahati Express, when they were heading to Bengaluru for work as masons. Upon reaching Bengaluru, they attempted to launder the fake currency by exchanging it at Suresh's shop. The police confirmed the currency was fake. **BMB**

Illegal factory sealed

Officials from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) raided Ibex Engineering Pvt. Ltd. on Kanakpura Road on Monday, sealing the factory for operating illegally for the past two years.

The aluminium casting company had been manufacturing, storing, and selling aluminium cast products without the mandatory license introduced in 2023. Despite being granted a two-year window to acquire the necessary license by December 1, 2024, the company failed to comply. During a BIS inspection in January 2025, it was discovered that the factory was still producing products without licence.

Head constable dies in accident

A 57-year-old police head constable was killed when a speeding car collided with his motorcycle near Sadahalli Gate in Chikkajala on Sunday night.

The victim, identified as Prakash MV, was attached to the Channarayapatna police station. According to the police, he was on his way to work when the car crashed into his bike. The force of the impact caused Prakash to be thrown onto the car's windscreen, resulting in severe head injuries.

K'taka officials face heat over illegal forest evictions

Citizen seeks criminal action against authorities relocating forest dwellers from buffer zones of Kali Tiger Reserve & Wildlife Sanctuary, citing violations of laws

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In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Central Environment ministry, a citizen has requested criminal prosecution of officials carrying out the relocation of forest dwellers in buffer areas of Kali Tiger Reserve and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary.

The letter has cited violations of the Wildlife Protection Act, the Forest Rights Act, and the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, apart from guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, and objects to some of the efforts being made by the Karnataka Forest Department for relocation of forest dwellers from tiger reserves, sanctuaries, and national parks.

Letter calls for fair and voluntary relocation

"In areas like Kali Tiger Reserve, relocation has been and is being carried out in buffer areas such as Suiavali, Asuli, Karanje, Kalabhavi, etc., which have been notified as buffer areas of Dandeli Anshi Tiger Reserve by the Government of Karnataka. Relocation from these areas is outright illegal and in utmost violation of guidelines," said Reshma in her letter.

As per the NTCA guidelines, the voluntary relocation of people needs to be done only in the identified core or critical tiger habitats of tiger reserves.

NTCA guidelines mandate that relocation should be taken up in core critical tiger habitats only and not in buffer areas since buffer areas require a lesser degree of habitat protection and are created to promote co-existence. It also gives due recognition of the livelihood, developmental, social, and cultural rights of the local people.

The letter further highlights that relocation has been carried out in the Castle Rock Range of KTR, which is not notified as a core critical tiger habitat but only a wildlife sanctuary.

"Relocation which has been/being carried in Castlerock in the name of creating inviolate space for tigers is outright illegal and in utmost violation of Section 14 of the guidelines as these guidelines do not apply to wildlife sanctuaries and national barks. These relocations should be stopped immediately. Moreover, a separate set of guidelines should be issued for carrying out relocation in sanctuaries and national parks," noted the letter, highlighting orders issued by the Government of Karnataka in 2014 and 2020 regarding the relocation of forest dwellers, which mandate valuation of movable and immovable property. Reshma, in the letter, has underscored that the aspect of valuation has been ignored in the case of relocation of forest dwellers in KTR.

> **"Relocation which has been carried in Castlerock in the name of creating inviolate space for tigers is outright illegal and in utmost violation of Section 14 of guidelines** –Letter

The letter demands criminal prosecutions against officials of District Level Committees of the Government of Karnataka for violating the provisions of WLPA, FRA, and LARR and cites that any relocation should be voluntary, with adequate compensation, rehabilitation, and measures to ensure the continued livelihoods and cultural rights of the affected communities as also required under various laws.

STP boost for Avalahalli

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A Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is set to be installed at Yelahanka Avalahalli Lake to improve water quality and prevent pollution, according to Yelahanka MLA SR Vishwanath. He made the announcement during Kere Connect Habba 2025, a lake festival organised at Avalahalli Lake.

Vishwanath acknowledged that conservation efforts have been ongoing for years. "A decade ago, there was a plan to construct a building for Chitrakala Parishad here, but protecting the lake has been a greater priority. The lake needs an STP to ensure clean water and sustain its ecosystem," he said.

The festival, organised by Green Circle, India Cares Foundation, and Friends of Lakes, brought together environmentalists, volunteers, and residents.

One of the key concerns raised at the festival was the deterioration of the Rajakaluve that feeds Avalahalli Lake. Over time, it has been converted into a sewage drain, polluting the lake water. "We have taken this issue up with the Yelahanka Tahsildar and hope for immediate action," said Vidyasagar, a member of Green Circle.

Green Circle Chairman Selvarajan emphasised that conservation efforts have yielded some success. "Our work has helped upgrade the lake from an E-category (severely polluted) to a D-category lake. But unless we stop sewage inflow, we cannot fully restore it," he said.

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Hill stations to remain chill for a bit more

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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If you're still craving winter chills, head to the hill stations of South India, where nighttime temperatures continue to dip below 10°C, bringing a sharp chill. On Saturday, several hill stations recorded single-digit temperatures before sunrise: Munnar (4.5°C), Kodaikanal (7.4°C), and Valparai (9.5°C). Meteorologists attribute the temperature drop to clear skies and high atmospheric pressure, which are expected to keep minimum temperatures low for the remainder of February. On Saturday, Ooty shivered at 10°C, Coonoor at 11.5°C, Chikkamagaluru at 12.2°C, Yelagiri at 15.8°C, Yercaud at 12°C, Wayanad at 17.8°C, Kodagu at 17°C, and Araku at 10.9°C.

An IMD (India Meteorological Department) official stated that clear skies and calm winds are enhancing radiative cooling, allowing heat to escape into space at night, resulting in a drop in nighttime temperatures. He added that cold conditions in hill stations could persist until the end of February, while clear skies may also lead to rising daytime temperatures across South India.

TTD restricts Tirumala trekking after leopard sighting

Bengalureans trek to Tirumala Hills for darshan, and it is essential to be aware of the key timings. The Alipiri pedestrian route is open for devotees from 5 am to 2 pm without restrictions. However, from 2 pm to 9 pm, pilgrims are allowed to trek only in groups of 70 or more for safety reasons. Additionally, children below 12 years of age are not permitted to trek after 2 pmon any day. To ensure the well-being of devotees, the pedestrian route is completely closed from 9 pm to 5 am. Those planning their pilgrimage to Tirumala should take note of these timings to ensure a smooth and safe journey.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has reimposed restrictions on the Alipiri pedestrian route after a leopard was spotted near the seventh-mile intersection a few days ago. It may be noted that in August 2023, a six-year-old girl was killed by a leopard while trekking to Tirumala with her parents. The attack occurred near the seventh mile of the Alipiri footpath, the same area where the latest leopard sighting was reported. A month before the tragic incident, a three-year-old boy survived a leopard attack while walking with his parents along the pedestrian route.

Darshan timings are key for Bengalureans trekking to Tirumala Hills

CLOSERHOME

Irish backpacker rape: Man sentenced to life

A court in India's western Goa state on Monday sentenced a 31-year-old man to life in prison for raping and murdering an Irish woman at a popular tourist resort nearly eight years ago.

The body of 28-year-old Danielle McLaughlin was found by a farmer on a beach popular with holidaymakers in Goa in March 2017. An autopsy showed that cerebral damage and constriction of the neck caused her death.

Vikat Bhagat was found guilty of the crime on Friday. McLaughlin's family in a statement had said they and her friends were "thankful to the public prosecutor and the investigating officer for justice."

Usually, rape victims cannot be named under Indian law. In this case, the victim's family spoke to the media to raise awareness of her case.

The crime highlighted persistent violence against women in India despite tougher laws against sexual assault imposed after the 2012 death of a young woman who was gang-raped on a bus in New Delhi. **AP**

On a cough syrup high

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday said it has seized cash and jewellery worth Rs 2 crore and apprehended two accused wanted in a drugs case by the NCB during recent searches conducted in some northern states and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The raids were undertaken on February 13 in Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana in the case related to Raees Ahmed Bhat and others who allegedly indulged in "unauthorised sales and diversion of Codeine-Based Cough Syrup (CBCS) and associated illicit monetary gains."

The money laundering probe stems from a complaint filed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) into a case of CBCS trafficking which is widely abused as an intoxicant by drug addicts.

Cocrex, a cough syrup brand, was procured "unauthorisedly" from its manufacturer Vidit Healthcare in Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh, whose managing partner is Neeraj Bhatia, a resident of Panipat in Haryana. **PTI**

Part of mosque razed: SC rap to UP officials

The Supreme Court on Monday directed Uttar Pradesh authorities to respond as to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them for razing a portion of a mosque at Kushinagar in alleged disobedience of the apex court's direction.

A bench also directed that until further orders, there shall be no demolition of the structure. The bench was hearing a contempt plea against the authorities in Kushinagar for their alleged wilful disobedience and failure to comply with the top court's November 13 last year directions. In its 2024 verdict, the top court laid down pan-India guidelines and barred demolition of properties without a prior show cause notice and 15 days' time to the aggrieved party to respond. **PTI**

Champions to meet again

3-decade wait is about to end for Pakistan's passionate cricket fans

IN FOCUS: SPORTS

A three-decade wait finally ends for Pakistan on Wednesday when it stages its first major International Cricket Council tournament since co-hosting the 1996 World Cup with Sri Lanka and India.

A 2009 terror attack on the Sri Lanka playing squad at Lahore resulted in international teams avoiding tours to Pakistan for almost a decade because of security concerns. The Sri Lankan test team returned in 2019 as international cricket made slow inroads back. Since then, there's been progress on bringing bigger, multinational events to Pakistan, where cricket — by a long margin — is the most popular sport.

But it doesn't come without complications. Long-standing geo-political tensions mean India won't send a team to Pakistan. So instead, India, which just about bankrolls the sport globally, will play its matches in the United Arab Emirates.

India's top team hasn't played in Pakistan since 2008, and the two countries have tended to only compete against each other in major tournaments, including World Cups.

Pakistan traveled to India for the 50-over World Cup in 2023. But India's reluctance to return the favor put this Champions Trophy tournament in doubt before the sport's international governing body and both countries agreed on a solution. It's similar to when Pakistan hosted the 2023 Asian Cup but India played its tournament games in Sri Lanka.

A billboard depicts Indian captain Rohit Sharma (2L) ahead of Champions Trophy in Lahore on February 15

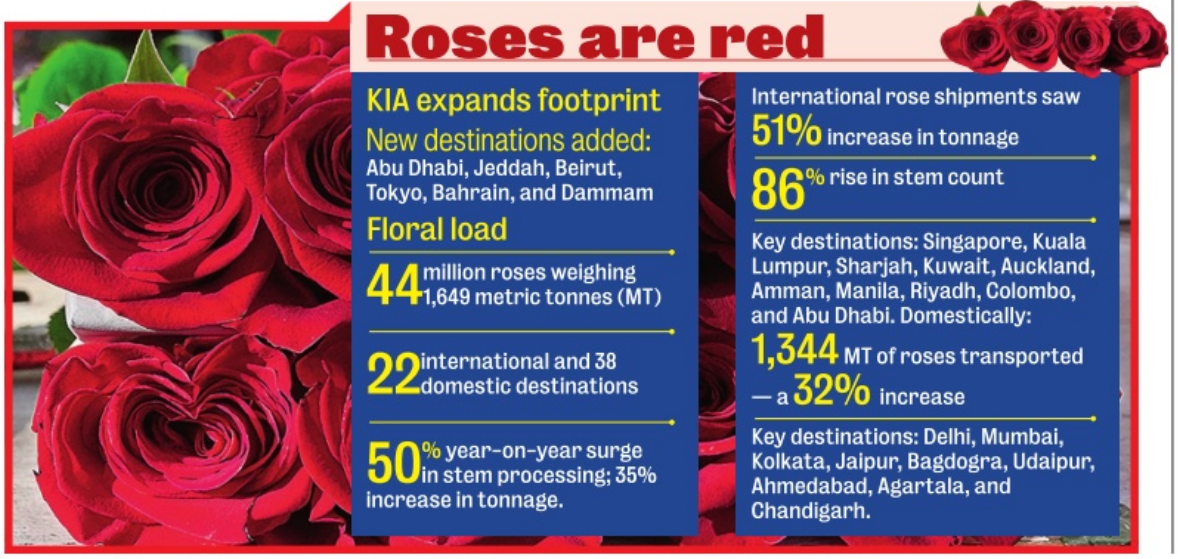
Pakistan was subsequently awarded the 2028 Women's T20 World Cup and the International Cricket Council agreed in principle that Pakistan will also play its games at a neutral venue when India hosts ICC tournaments until 2027.

When the archrivals do meet each other in ICC tournaments, it tends to catch the attention of more than a billion cricket-mad fans.

The group game on Feb. 23 in Dubai will certainly fit into that category. Pakistan will host 10 games, including one semifinal. The final will be played at Lahore on March 9 if India doesn't qualify. Dubai is scheduled to host all three of India's group matches and a semifinal.

The eight-nation, limited-overs tournament hasn't been contested since 2017, when Pakistan beat India in the final in England. **AP**

Roses are red



KIA expands footprint

New destinations added:
Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Beirut, Tokyo, Bahrain, and Dammam

Floral load

44 million roses weighing 1,649 metric tonnes (MT)

22 international and 38 domestic destinations

50% year-on-year surge in stem processing; 35% increase in tonnage.

International rose shipments saw
51% increase in tonnage

86% rise in stem count

Key destinations: Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Sharjah, Kuwait, Auckland, Amman, Manila, Riyadh, Colombo, and Abu Dhabi. Domestically:

1,344 MT of roses transported — a 32% increase

Key destinations: Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Bagdogra, Udaipur, Ahmedabad, Agartala, and Chandigarh.

AROUNDTHEWORLD

The Trump question: Europe in a fix

French President Emmanuel Macron called leaders from key European Union nations and the United Kingdom to his ornate Elysee Palace on Monday for an emergency meeting on how to react to the U.S. diplomatic blitz on Ukraine, which left the once rock-solid partner as a potential political liability.

Last week, top U.S. officials from the Trump administration made their first visit to Europe, leaving the impression that Washington was ready to embrace the Kremlin while it cold-shouldered many of its age-old European allies.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock called the week "an existential moment.

It's a moment where Europe has to stand up."

That's where Macron hopes to step in with Monday's meeting. Leaders of Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, Poland, Spain, the Netherlands, Denmark and the European Union are to have talks on how to deal with Europe's security quandary. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte will also attend. **AP**

Xi meets business leaders

China's President Xi Jinping met with private sector business leaders on Monday, offering them assurances that policies regarding the private sector would not change, state media reported, as government officials work to revive an economy disrupted by a pandemic, regulatory crackdowns and a real estate crisis.

Among those present was Alibaba founder Jack Ma, who was part of a focus on a crackdown on the tech industry in recent years.

Xi told the audience that the Communist Party and the government's approach towards the private sector has been incorporated into "the socialist system with Chinese characteristics," which is how the party describes its governance, according to CCTV. "They cannot and will not change," said Xi. **Reuters**

Israel to stay on in 5 spots in Lebanon

The Israeli military says its forces will remain in five strategic locations in southern Lebanon near the border after Tuesday's deadline for their withdrawal under a ceasefire with the Hezbollah militant group. The move came as the region marked 500 days of unrest linked to the war in the Gaza Strip. Lebanon's government and Hezbollah are opposed to any further delay in the withdrawal, which had already been postponed for three weeks. A separate ceasefire in Gaza is also in doubt, with Israel and the United States sending conflicting signals over whether they want it to continue.

Earlier on Monday, an Israeli drone targeted a car in Lebanon's southern port city of Sidon, the deepest strike inside Lebanese territory since the ceasefire took effect. Israel said it targeted Muhammad Shaheen, the head of Hamas' operations in Lebanon. Footage circulating online showed a car engulfed in flames. **AP**

Russia fines Google for surrender talk

A Russian court has fined Alphabet's Google 3.8 million roubles ($41,530) for hosting content on YouTube that included videos instructing Russian soldiers how to surrender, Russia's TASS news agency reported on Monday.

Russia has for several years ordered foreign technology platforms to remove content it deems illegal, such as what it calls "fakes" about the war in Ukraine, issuing small but persistent fines when it sees failures to comply.

Google did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Critics accuse the Russian authorities of deliberately disrupting YouTube's download speeds to prevent Russians from viewing content on it which is critical of President Vladimir Putin and his government. **Reuters**

K'taka Assembly Budget session to begin from March 3, CM to present Budget on March 7

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah briefed the media ahead of the Budget session of the Karnataka Vidhan Sabha set to begin from March 3, 2025. The Karnataka CM stated that the Governor will give his speech on March 3 and a discussion will be held for next three days. CM Siddaramaiah added that he will present the Budget on March 7.

Siddaramaiah said on Monday, "On March 3, Assembly Session will begin. As it's the first session of this year, Governor's address will be made. Discussion on the address will be held for three days.

Then on March 7, Budget will be presented. I'll speak at the end of March, after the discussion."

The Karnataka CM further added that the Business Advisory Committee will decide for how many days the Assembly session will be held. Siddaramaiah added that he came to Vidhan Sabha and met leaders. He said that he was given opinion by the Opposition leaders.

"Business Advisory Committee will decide how many days the session should be held for.

Though I have pain in my knee, I had meetings with several departments today. I came to Vidhana Soudha, leaders came and they gave me their opinions. We'll keep all their demands in mind and consider them accordingly. The state government is pro-farmers," he said.

Ahead of the Budget session the verbal battles between the Congress and BJP has increased. Ashoka had alleged Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar that his city rounds in the city inspecting projects were only for photo shoots and nothing was genuine about it.

Replying to Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashok, Shivakumar targeted the BJP MLA and stated that Ashok used to accompany BJP CMs when they used to conduct rounds of the city and inspect projects.

He added that it is important to inspect developmental projects due to their Budget and also ensure that they are done popularly. Shivakumar added that these all allegations are just attempts of net catching. **ANI**

MUDA scam: Karnataka Lokayukta seeks more time to submit final report

The Karnataka Lokayukta, which is probing the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land scam matter in which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was named as one of the accused, has sought more time from the court to submit the final report.

Considering the plea, Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat of the Special Court for MLAs/MPs in Bengaluru has posted the matter for hearing on February 24.

The counsel representing the prosecution submitted that Lokayukta ADGP A. Subramanyeshwara Rao is reviewing the report and requested additional time for submission due to technical reasons.

Mysuru Lokayukta SP T.J. Udesh had submitted the MUDA scam report to Lokayukta ADGP Subramanyeshwara Rao on February 13, following the directions of the High Court bench headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna.

According to sources, the final report on the MUDA scam consists of 550 pages across five volumes. The legal cell of the Lokayukta will examine the report and decide whether to file a charge sheet or submit a closure report. Sources stated that the investigation has indicated that there was no political influence found in the allotment of 14 sites by the MUDA to CM Siddaramaiah's family.

A comprehensive investigation has been conducted over the allotment of 14 sites to CM's family and about the ownership of the land belonging to the fourth accused, J. Devaraju.

CM Siddaramaiah leaves Lokayukta SP office located on Dewan's road in Mysuru after appearing before the SP in the MUDA case (file photo)

According to sources, the final report on the MUDA scam consists of 550 pages across five volumes. The legal cell of the Lokayukta will examine the report and decide whether to file a charge sheet or submit a closure report

When asked whether he will get a clean chit in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam, CM Siddaramaiah on Monday responded: "I do not have any information regarding this."

The Karnataka High Court on February 6 had rejected the petition seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam.

The development has proved to be a significant boost for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is named as accused number one in the case, ahead of the Budget session.

The verdict, which came amid the opposition BJP's taunts that his tenure will end by November, has provided him with much-needed relief and strengthened his position within the party.

The decision also allows CM Siddaramaiah to face the opposition with confidence during the Budget session, scheduled to be held in the first week of March.

The Congress-led government had faced allegations of cutting short the session's duration to avoid discussions on the MUDA scam. **IANS**

Drunk driving among leading causes of road accidents in city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

narcotics at the time of the crash. The severity of the situation has raised alarms regarding the growing incidence of drunk driving, especially among young adults.

This incident adds to the growing pile of such tragedies. In January alone, the city reported an alarming 3,511 cases of drunk driving, with a staggering 800 cases registered in the first week of February. The ongoing issue has left authorities grappling with its persistence, despite continuous awareness campaigns and strict enforcement drives by the Bengaluru Traffic Police.

Drunk driving remains one of the leading causes of road accidents in Bengaluru. Officials have highlighted that a significant percentage of fatal and grievous injury accidents in the city involve drivers under the influence of alcohol. In several recent cases, pedestrians and fellow motorists have lost their lives due to reckless driving caused by intoxication.

In the previous year, traffic police officials documented a total of 23,574 incidents related to driving under the influence, alongside 233 accidents involving pedestrians.

"Drunk driving poses a significant threat to road safety, not only in Bengaluru but across various regions. Many individuals consume excessive alcohol, leading to adverse effects on their blood and impairing their vision and coordination while driving.

The police are diligently performing their duties by implementing fines, conducting special drives, and booking cases. However, people often drink at home or in bars, underestimating the consequences, especially when they reside nearby or intend to visit neighbouring areas.

These motorists disrupt traffic, make reckless decisions, and cause loss of life or property damage," says Prof MN Sreehari, advisor to government of Karnataka for traffic, transportation and infrastructure, Sreehari explained how drunk drivers are so dangerous. "Intoxicated riders/drivers tend to lose control over their actions, endangering themselves and others. It's crucial for young people to learn and practise traffic discipline to ensure everyone's safety on the roads.

It's imperative that sellers regulate the amount of liquor served, perhaps limiting it to 30ml or 60ml, and mark the consumer's hand to prevent further alcohol service, considering the high prevalence of alcohol consumption in the city. The government must enforce strict actions to safeguard not only the lives of the consumers but also those of others."

The traffic police had conducted multiple awareness programs, including public campaigns, educational drives in colleges, and frequent checks at key junctions to curb the menace. However, the alarming number of cases suggests that many motorists continue to flout the rules.

Under Section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, driving a vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration exceeding 30 mg per 100 ml or under the influence of drugs to the extent that proper control over the vehicle is compromised is an offence.

The penalties are for first-time offence, imprisonment for up to six months, a fine up to ₹10,000, or both. Subsequent offences can lead to imprisonment for up to two years, a fine up to ₹15,000, or both.

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I Nishchit S/O, Lakshminarayan R/o No 219, Chowdeshwari Nilaya, Near Ek Mart, Hulimavu, Bangalore South, Bannergatta Road, Bangalore -560076. have changed my name to Nishchit Lakshmi Narayan.

I Lavinia Filomena Victor W/o Lincoln Christopher Victor R/o # 205 DS Max Saffron APTS, Banaswadi Outer Ring Road Bangalore 560043 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known Lavinia Filomena Noronha

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHARATH .B.G S/o Gopalaiah R/o Byranahalli village, Kasaba hobli, Sathanuru post, Magadi taluk, Ramanagara District - 562120, stating that, my name BHARATH .H.G and my father name Gopala are mentioned in my education documents. But my name BHARATH .B.G and my father name Gopalaiah are mentioned in my Aadhar card. So, I hereby declare that, above both the names my & my father only. All the above information is correct & true. Therefore, I have sworn before Notary and Advocate B.R.Narayana Gowda, vide affidavit dated 13.02.2025.

I, Sandeep Jain R/o #07 Amruth Thejas layout Adde Vishwanathapura Rd, B'lore-560064 have changed my minor daughter name from Nitya to Nitya Jain.

I Mohammad Afraan Khan Itath S/O, Khan Itath Aman R/o No 1280/221 1st Stage 4th Block Hbr Layout Bengaluru - 560043 have changed my name to Afraan Itath Khan.

I, (OLD NAME) Y MENAKA DEVI W/o NO. JC-826354F SUB/APTC YUMKHAIBAM DOREN SING Resident of Vill-Nongpok sekmai, PO-Yairipok, Teh- Thoubal, Dist-Thoubal, State- Manipur, 795149, have changed my name from (OLD NAME) Y MENAKA DEVI to (NEW NAME)Yumkhaibam Menaka Devi vide affidavit dated 30.12.2024 sworn before notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bengaluru

I, (OLD NAME) AISHA BEGUM M/o NO.13630025Y HAV MOHD SHAFI BABA PIRZADA Resident of Vill-Muqami Shaha Wali, PO-Kupwara, Teh/Dist- Kupwara, State- U.T.Jammu and Kashmir 193222, have changed my name from (OLD NAME) AISHA BEGUM to (NEW NAME) ASHIA BEGUM vide affidavit dated 15.01.2025 sworn before notary SIVAKUMARA.M.N, Bengaluru

I, MYNAVATHI D/o Thimmarayappa, residing at No 11, AK Colony, Ramachandrapura, Vidyaranyapura, Near Yelumandeeamma Temple, Jalahalli, Bangalore - 560013, My father name is Thimmegowda have changed name to Thimmarayappa. Henceforth, we will be known as Thimmarayappa for all purposes.

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HEALTH TIP: Nature has a calming effect on our minds and bodies, helping to reduce stress and improve mood

Whether it's a brisk walk, a yoga session, or dancing around your living room, moving your body releases endorphins – the brain's feel-good chemicals

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'Mum, what's the meaning of life?'

How to talk about philosophy with little kids

If your young child asks "what's the meaning of life?" you might laugh it off (how cute!) or freeze in panic (where do I even begin?).

It's tempting to dismiss these big questions as too advanced for kids. Plato and Aristotle both believed children weren't ready for philosophy. In fact, they didn't think people were ready to study philosophy until they turned 30.

But children know otherwise. They ask big questions like "Why are we here?" and "What does it mean to be fair?" and "Why do we keep feeding the cat, even though she never says thank you?"

American researcher and author Jana Mohr Lone has taught philosophy to young children for more than 20 years. As one second-grade child told her:

[...] children don't know as many things about the world and so our minds are more free to imagine.

This openness makes children natural philosophers. By encouraging these conversations, you can help them grow into curious, thoughtful and reflective individuals.

How can parents do this?

3 steps for philosophical dialogue

One of the difficulties of engaging in philosophy is people may be unfamiliar with how it works.

But you can have a philosophical discussion by following three steps:

- reflection
- generalisation
- abstraction.

When your child asks a deep question like "What's the meaning of life?" you don't need to have the answer, you just need to start a conversation.

First, prompt your child to reflect on the question. You could ask: "What do you think?"

This allows your child to explore their own experiences. They might say, "I live for football and Bluey!"

Second, move to generalisation. You can ask, "Do you think that's the meaning of life for everyone?" This opens up a philosophical discussion beyond the self. Your child might say, "Well, Stella lives for gymnastics and cheese."

Finally, prompt towards abstraction, by asking "What makes life meaningful for all people?"

Football, Bluey and handstands won't appeal to everyone, but something else might. Now we're looking for examples (or counter-examples) as a method of inquiry.

This prompts your child to look for what is common to all people in living a meaningful life. They may respond with something like:

A lot of people love chocolate but not Aunty Grace. Most people love dogs but maybe not people who really love cats. Everyone loves time with their friends and family.

Suddenly, you're having a rich philosophical dialogue. You can continue further inquiry into what really is love, or what makes certain relationships more important than others.

What we're doing here is having a dialogue through concepts, academically known as conceptual analysis.

Why should you do this?

Educational research has found philosophical dialogue improves children's logical reasoning, reading and maths comprehension, self-esteem and turn-taking.

Studies have found it benefits children's academic and social development in early childhood, primary school and high school.

But beyond these skills, philosophy empowers children to engage meaningfully with the world around them.

Happiness, identity, fairness, death, reality, time, nature, good, knowledge and purpose are all things children encounter every day. Philosophy with your child can simply be the exploration of what these concepts mean and how they impact our lives.

Understanding concepts and being able to apply that understanding to life is the foundation of philosophy.

Questions to ask your child

To engage your child in philosophy, start a conversation with them about the concepts they're encountering.

If they're drawing, you could ask what is art? What is imagination?.

If they don't want to share their favourite toy: what is fairness? What is kindness?

If they're talking to the dog: what is language? What is understanding?

If they're emotional: what is happiness? What is sadness?

If they want to know why they should go to school: what is knowledge?

If they're telling you about their dream: what is real?

Next time your child asks a big question, embrace the moment. By exploring concepts like fairness, love and happiness, you're helping them interpret the world and become more thoughtful people.

By asking them to reflect, explore different perspectives and consider the bigger picture, you'll embark on a philosophical journey that can grow into something meaningful for you both.

(By Ben Kilby, Monash University, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Eating veggies

Cuts liver cancer risk

Eating vegetables can help reduce the risk of liver cancer by 65 per cent, according to a study.

The study, led by researchers from the INSERM, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research, focused on patients diagnosed with cirrhosis -- scarring (fibrosis) of the liver caused by long-term liver damage.

Eat fruits & vegetables

They examined the benefits of eating vegetables and or fruits among these patients Of the 179 patients analysed, 20 were diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer).

The team found that a total of 42.5 per cent of patients with cirrhosis had insufficient fruit and/or vegetable consumption.

"A 65 per cent reduction in the incidence (new cases) of liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma) was observed in patients diagnosed with cirrhosis consuming more than 240 gram per day of vegetables," the researchers said.

The researchers, however, found no evidence of an association between fruit consumption and hepatocellular carcinoma.

Causes of liver cancer

Liver cancer is the sixth most frequent cancer worldwide, mainly represented by HCC, accounting for about 85-90 per cent. HCC occurs when a tumour grows on the liver.

HCC most commonly occurs in those with chronic liver disease especially those with cirrhosis or fibrosis, which occur in the setting of chronic liver injury and inflammation.

Main causes of disease of underlying chronic liver disease are alcohol and viral hepatitis, while it also includes overweight and obesity, consumption of foods contaminated with aflatoxins (that is, toxins produced by moulds).

—IANS

MIRRORLIGHTS

Alcohol-related cancers a growing concern in India, say experts

Alcohol-related cancers are a growing concern in India, said health experts on Monday, even as the World Health Organization (WHO) recently called for prominent health warning labels on alcoholic beverages.

The WHO defines alcohol as a toxic, psychoactive, and dependence-producing substance that has been, decades ago, classified as a Group 1 carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Group 1 carcinogen is the highest risk group, which also includes asbestos, radiation, and tobacco. "Alcohol consumption increases the risk of cancer, and more than 20 types of cancers can be attributed to consumption of alcohol," Dr. (Prof) Puneet Garg, Vascular Interventional Radiologist and Endovascular Surgeon, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, told IANS.

The most common cancers linked to alcohol are of mouth, throat, foodpipe, stomach, colon, rectum, and pancreas. It also causes cancers of the breast in women and prostate in males.

"In India, alcohol-related cancers are a growing concern. Alcohol metabolises into acetaldehyde -- a toxic compound that can damage DNA and proteins -- leading to mutations that initiate cancer development. In addition, alcohol can impair the body's ability to absorb essential nutrients like folate and vitamins A, C, D, and E, which are vital for maintaining healthy cells and preventing cancer," Dr Taraprasad Tripathy, Assistant Professor at All India Institute of Medical Sciences Bhubaneswar, Odisha, told IANS.

Alcohol is a well-established carcinogen that is contributing significantly to the global burden of the deadly disease. Nearly 4 per cent of cancers diagnosed worldwide can be attributed to alcohol consumption, according to the WHO.

A recent study in the journal Lancet estimates that alcohol consumption was responsible for approximately 62,100 new cancer cases in the India 2020.

Recently, US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy also recommended including cancer warnings on alcoholic beverages to curb the rising cancers of the breast, liver, and colon. The warning can empower consumers to make informed decisions, raise awareness of alcohol-attributable health risks.

The experts noted that chronic alcohol consumption also weakens the immune system, reducing its capacity to identify and destroy cancerous cells. Tripathy explained that alcohol consumption is linked to several types of cancers, each presenting distinct early warning signs. —IANS

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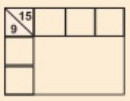
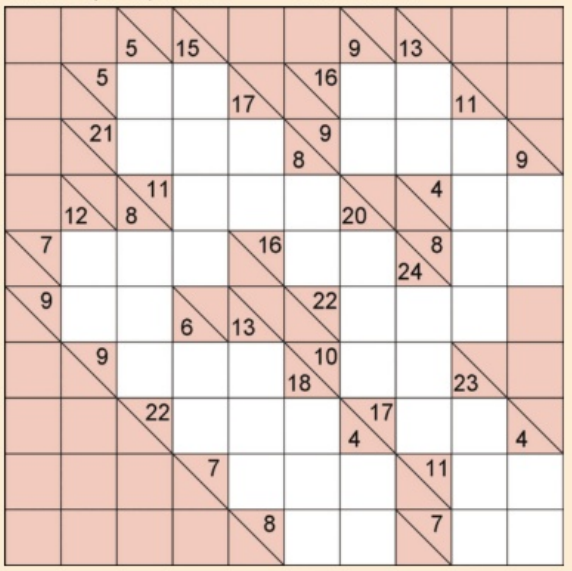
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

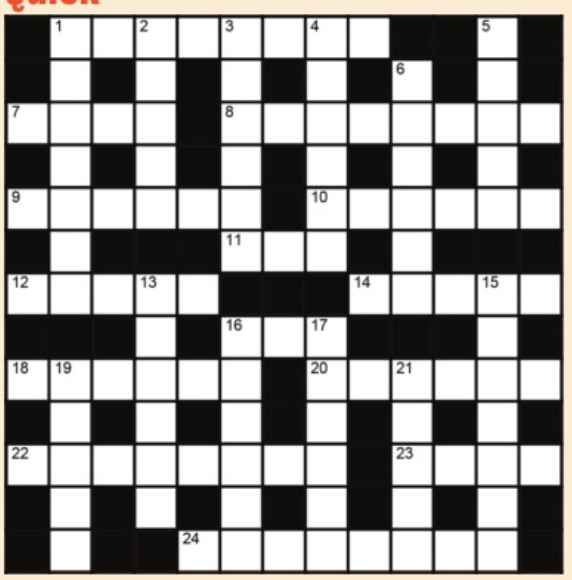


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Major south Indian river (8)
7 Read superficially (4)
8 One lacking in strength (8)
9 Supplants (6)
10 Author ___ Hemmingway (6)
11 Tax deducted at source, in short (3)
12 Works by Keats and Tennyson (5)
14 Pebbly or sandy seashore (5)
16 Courtney ___ : Friends star (3)
18 You will find the Bangalore Golf Club on this road (6)
20 Annually (6)
22 Praiseworthy? (8)
23 Convent dwellers (4)
24 Sensitive (8)

DOWN

1 Manages with whatever is available (5,2)
2 Greek poet (5)
3 Absolutely latest? (6)
4 Male ducks (6)
5 Edible ice-cream holders? (5)
6 Quick look (6)
13 Manage with limited resources ? (4,2)
15 Of the intestine (7)
16 Metal percussion instrument (6)
17 Organic aromatic solvent (6)
19 Astonish (5)
21 An unforeseen obstacle (1,4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS H

DRO KOPD UNB DF HFLIQLHO N XFFC DRND RO QP UYFLZ QP DF COD RQJ RNIO RQP FUL UNB.

Linemaro

You are so beautiful that you give the sun a reason to shine

Mindchow

Someday, everything will make sense. Now, just breathe

Joke of the day

I've accidentally swallowed some Scrabble tiles. My next crap could spell disaster

Loop

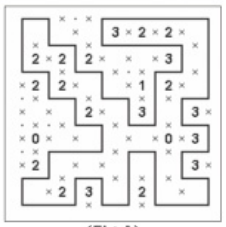
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

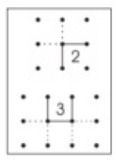
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

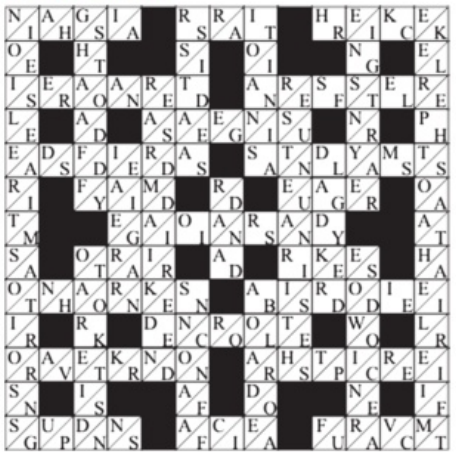


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

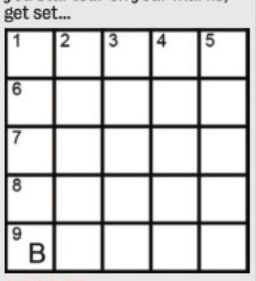
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

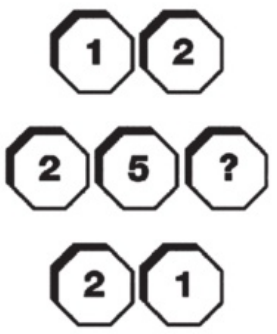
1 A past; 6 Ulnar;
7 Rue at; 8 A ma if;
9 Lubes

DOWN

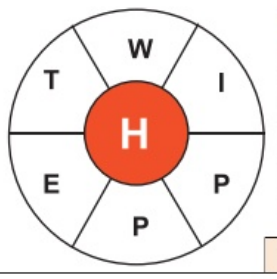
1 LM pub; 2 Laura;
3 Fauns; 4 Eat it;
5 As are

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

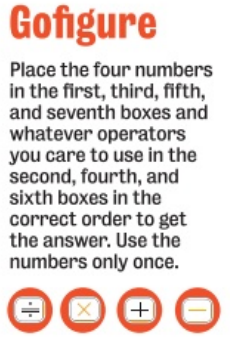
SudokuChallenge

					2	6		
	6			8		2		
5							1	4
	8				7		4	2
	7	2	9		1	8	5	
6	4		2				7	
7	5							3
		1		3			2	
		4	7					

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

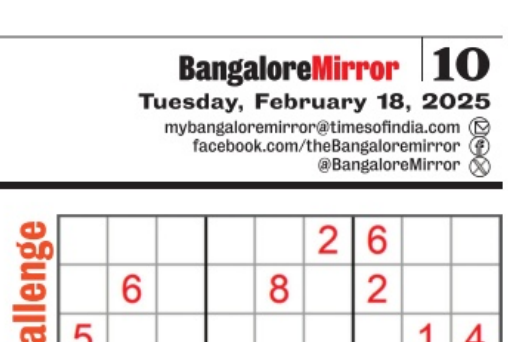


Easy = 27
3 7 8 9

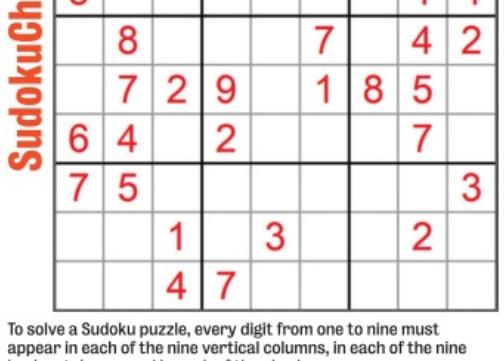
Medium = 3
1 4 5 6

Hard = 9
4 9 9 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



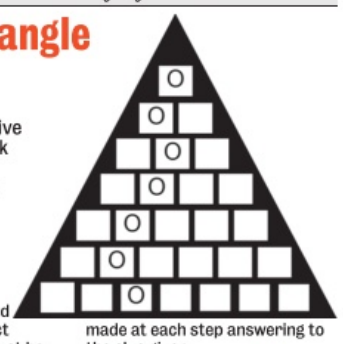
Differences: 1. Finger is moved. 2. Chair is missing. 3. Inbox is moved. 4. Nose is different. 5. Hand is out of pocket. 6. Mouth is different.

Riddler

Five friends are all pilots: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Bruckner, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Landis, and Lord Christopher. Each pilot has one daughter but named his plane after a friend's daughter. Mr. Landis's plane is the Carla Jean; Dr. Thompson's, the Rene. Elizabeth Johnson's father owns the Lindsey Kay. Mr. Bruckner owns the Mary Lynn, which is named after Mr. Landis's daughter. Carla's father used Lord Christopher's daughter's name for his plane. Who is Lindsey Kay's father?

Alpha triangle

1 Circular letter
2 Conjunction
3 Steal from
4 __ yesterday: naive
5 Batman's sidekick
6 More scrawny
7 Halogen element



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

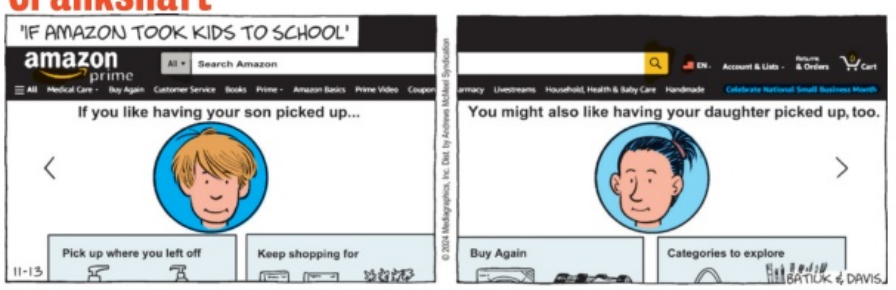
Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may sense negative energy around you, leading to unhappiness. Avoid investing in worthless assets, and don't rely too much on friends or colleagues for support, as they may not be helpful. It's best to make independent decisions today.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Confidence will shine through in your work today. You will be in a strong position against opponents and competitors. Your focus on goals will be sharp, and your health will likely be stable. However, to maintain domestic harmony, avoid unnecessary arguments at home.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Blessed by positive planetary influences, you will feel energised and respected by those around you. Intellectual pursuits will attract you, and you may consider higher education to enhance your career prospects.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Spending time with family and friends will keep you engaged today. You may plan home renovations or invest in creative decor to enhance your social status. An increase in your fixed assets is also possible.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may struggle to express yourself practically today, leading to a lack of confidence. Trust your intuition when making investment decisions. People around you may not be very supportive, so avoid relying on them. Watch your diet to prevent stomach issues.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
With blessings from your elders, you may finally get back on track with postponed projects. Messy situations will come under control, and family disputes may be resolved, bringing harmony to the home. Your creativity will flourish, and you may be drawn toward glamour and artistic pursuits.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
A positive day for financial gains. You may achieve results with minimal effort, and past losses could turn into profits through wise decisions. Higher education may be on your mind, and you could also contribute to charity or help those in need. Investment in intellectual assets is possible. Students will perform well.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today brings happiness and better health, especially if you've been dealing with chronic issues. However, avoid rushing while driving or making impulsive decisions in business. Conflicts with business partners should be handled carefully. Investments in business or work should be postponed for now. With elder blessings, your time will be spent productively.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
The moon's unfavourable position may make you feel dull and could bring health concerns. Financial losses are possible, so avoid risky investments and unnecessary expenditures. Steer clear of controversies, as they may negatively impact you.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
With the moon's blessings, your luck will favour you today. Stalled projects may finally move forward, and elders' support will help you overcome challenges. Resolving family disputes will bring peace at home. Your creativity will flourish, and you may feel drawn to art, films, or glamour.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A productive day filled with enthusiasm. Your sharp focus will help you excel in business or work. Your boss will be supportive, and new responsibilities or even a promotion may come your way. A visit to a religious place is possible. In your love life, avoid arrogance to maintain harmony.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Blessed by the moon, love will be in the air in your personal life. Singles may find a suitable match, while professionals will perform well at work. Friends and colleagues will be supportive, making your day smooth and productive.

KIDZONE

Hitha Sukruth J S, 9 years, Anveshana Montessori

Kaveri Sriram, 10 years, Valistus International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(32°3') / (3°32)
1°3² = 3³ = 27

RIDDLER
Mr. Bruckner: Lindsey
Kay – Mr. Bruckner's daughter, Elizabeth – Mr. Johnson's daughter, Carla Jean – Mr. Thompson's daughter, Mary Lynne – Mr. Landis's daughter. Rene – Lord Christopher's daughter

BULL'S EYE
pitch, wheel, whip, WHIPPET, whit, white, with

FAST FIVE

P	A	S	T	A
L	U	N	A	R
U	R	A	T	E
M	A	F	I	A
B	L	U	E	S

STRIKE OUT

G	U	N	S		F	I	E		F	A	C	T		
N		I		F		D		N		F				
O	V	E	R	D	O		A	S	P	I	R	E		
R		K		E	C	O	L	E		W		L		
S		T	A	R		A		R	E		E		H	
M		G	A	I	N	S	A	Y		T			O	
R	Y	A	M		R		U	A	E				O	
L	D	E	R	S		A	T	L	A	S	T			
A	D	D	E	G	I	S		R		A				
I	R	O	N	E	D		N	E	S	T	L	E		
E		A		O				N		E				
N	A	S	A		R	A	I		H	E	C	K		

QUICK

												E		
							A	L	L	E	R	G	I	C
														E
														Z
														O
														A
														I
L	A	U	D	A	B	L	E		N	U	N	S		
S	A	N	K		E	Y		Y	E	A	R	L	Y	
P	O	E	M	S				B	E	A	C	H		

 # India release
Timothée Chalamet-starrer 'A Complete Unknown' to release in India on February 28

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

New venture

Many people, including provision shop owners, auto rickshaw drivers, and realtors, have tried their luck to become somebody in Sandalwood. Now, K Neelakantan, who owns a small shop at Shantinagar Burial Ground, debuts as a villain in the movie Nanagu Lavvaagide. Neelakantan has also written the script and the screenplay and also bankrolled the movie under the Sri Kaliamman Pictures banner.

BS Rajasekhar has written the dialogues and lyrics and is director of the movie. Rajasekhar appreciated the producer for his commitment. "The producer narrated the script to me at Shantinagar Burial Ground. He asked me to direct it and I agreed," the director said. The director said the moviegoers may mistake this movie as a romance movie but it is a family drama. "The protagonist comes to Bengaluru from Belagavi to escape from moneylenders' harassment. The climax of the movie is how the hero solves his problems," the director said.

The shooting of the movie was held in and around Bengaluru. Neelakantan said that he had an ambition of becoming a hero in Sandalwood during his childhood. "Now, I have realised my dream by facilitating my son to play the hero in this movie," he said.

On human weaknesses

Director Kavi Rajesh has been busy with preparations to release his 20th movie Nagavalli Bungalow that is scheduled to arrive in theaters on February 28. Its audio was unveiled by Malleswaram MLA Dr CN Ashwanthnarayana recently. Veteran producer SA Chinne Gowda was present on the occasion.

"The movie does not belong to the horror genre. It revolves around six characters that represent six weaknesses of human beings. Six people representing kama (desire), krodha (anger), lobha (greed), madha (ego), moha (attachment), and matsarya (jealousy) enter Nagavalli Bungalow. What happens to them and how they come out of that bungalow is the climax," said Rajesh.

The director said six girls staying at a PG embark on a trip to a resort. "They happen to see Nagavalli Bungalow on the way to the resort. They become curious and enter the bungalow. The movie has a message to society," the director said.

It is said JM Prahlad wrote the script 20 years ago but could not find a producer for it. "Tejaswini, a classical dancer, plays Nagavalli in the movie," the director said. Tejaswini said this is her maiden movie.

In the spotlight

Memorable moments from the BAFTAs

The British Academy Film Awards, or BAFTAs, have given audiences some great moments in recent years. Remember Ariana DeBose's "Angela Basset did the thing," that awkward performance that had a joyful second life as a joke? Or Ryan Gosling's wink at Emma Stone last year that had internet shippers in a tizzy?

The Associated Press is here to help those without a BritBox subscription with a rundown of the best and most memorable moments of the night, where "Anora" did not sweep (though Mikey Madison did triumph over best actress front-runner Demi Moore), "Conclave" won big and "Emilia Pérez" proved it's still a contender.

Sing a song

Host David Tennant got the ceremony off to an amusing start with a pre-recorded bit where various actors give him a little pep talk, appearing in his dressing room mirror — including fellow Scot Brian Cox, who kicked off a rousing rendition of The Proclaimers song 'I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)'. Tennant took over and brought the anthem into the room, where Selena Gomez seemed genuinely surprised when he tapped her shoulder and inserted her name into the song. There were the celebrity participants of course, James McAvoy, Camila Cabello and Colman Domingo among them. But even some not "in the show" sang along happily as well. Others, like Adrien Brody and Demi Moore, did not seem to be part of the chorus.

How to say?

No presenter wants a John Travolta "Adele Dazeem" moment or, worse, a Faye Dunaway "La La Land" flap, and you could see the wheels turning in Gomez's head as she looked at the card for the debut by a British writer, director or producer award. "I don't know how to say," she said quietly from stage, looking at her co-star and co-presenter, Zoe Saldaña, before looking further down on the card. "Oh, 'Kneecap,'" she said, quietly adding, "Rich" and simply avoiding the writer-director's last name, Peppiatt.

Surprise, surprise

Jesse Eisenberg started off his best screenplay win for "A Real Pain" with some signature, self-deprecating jokes about how neither he, his wife nor the person who sat him thought he was going to win. The audience laughed loudly when he said that's why his wife didn't attend the ceremony. But he quickly turned sincere, offering a touching tribute to his wife, Anna Strout, whom he credited with helping him learn about the world around him.

Accent mark

Perhaps Saldaña was feeling the pressure of "Emilia Pérez's" diminished Oscar dreams two days before voting closes. Or she was really overwhelmed to win the best supporting actress BAFTA. Regardless, she let her emotions show in an intense speech, in which she poked fun at her inability to do a good British accent, shouted out her makeup artist as her closest confidant.

—AP